



## THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

June 5, 2019

The Hon. Lawrence Hogan, Governor  
State House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Governor Hogan:

We write to you today urging you to commit to releasing \$1.6 million in aid to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) that has been included in the Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget. As you are aware, BSO management recently announced their intention to cancel the orchestra's summer programming and reduce the orchestra's season to 40 weeks. It is our understanding that these decisions were made, in part, because of uncertainty whether you would release funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

We are concerned that these actions may have an irreversible impact on the quality of this world-class orchestra and will unfairly impact the BSO musicians and their families. Time is of the essence, as BSO management plans to cease paying the musicians after June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Nobody will dispute that the BSO must make significant changes to its current practices if they are to be sustainable for the long term. That is why the legislation to provide short term financial support also created a working group that will bring everyone to the table to make those choices. Both the working group and the financial assistance are necessary to ensure the things that make the BSO a world-class orchestra are not lost during any restructuring.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is truly a statewide cultural resource, performing regularly at the Strathmore in Montgomery County and at events across the state. Their education programs reach schools in nearly every Maryland county and even internationally. Losing the BSO or seeing it diminished would be a tremendous loss for Maryland. Again, we urge you to commit to releasing the \$1.6 million grant to the BSO included in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Sincerely,

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, District 43  
Delegate Tawanna Gaines, District 22  
Delegate Brooke Lierman, District 46  
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46  
Delegate Eric Ebersole, District 12

Senator Nancy King, District 39  
Senator Bill Ferguson, District 46  
Senator Antonio Hayes, District 40  
Senator Ben Kramer, District 19  
Senator Brian Feldman, District 15

Delegate Marc Korman, District 16  
Delegate Courtney Watson, District 9  
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, District 20  
Delegate Steve Johnson, District 34A  
Delegate Al Carr, District 18  
Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13  
Delegate Karen Lewis Young, District 3A  
Delegate Dana Stein, District 11  
Delegate Luke Clippinger, District 46  
Delegate Charles Sydnor, District 44B  
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, District 21  
Delegate Kirill Reznik, District 39  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19  
Delegate Ken Kerr, District 3B  
Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15  
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, District 17  
Delegate Heather Bagnall, District 33  
Delegate Sara Love, District 16  
Delegate Jon Cardin, District 11  
Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10  
Delegate Mark Chang, District 32  
Delegate Shelly Hettleman, District 11  
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, District 12  
Delegate Pam Queen, District 14  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43  
Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, District 23A  
Delegate Vaughn Stewart, District 19  
Delegate Steve Lafferty, District 42A  
Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, District 41  
Delegate Ben Barnes, District 21  
Delegate Mary Lehman, District 21  
Delegate Jared Solomon, District 18

Senator Mary Washington, District 43  
Senator Kathy Klausmeier, District 8  
Senator Sarah Elfreth, District 30  
Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47  
Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, District 23  
Senator Joanne Benson, District 24  
Senator Guy Guzzone, District 13  
Senator Will Smith, District 20  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, District 18  
Senator Clarence Lam, District 12  
Senator Craig Zucker, District 14  
Senator Ron Young, District 3  
Senator Jim Rosapepe, District 21

Delegate Alonzo Washington, District 22  
Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45  
Delegate Alice Cain, District 30A  
Delegate Emily Shetty, District 18  
Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 27C  
Delegate Carol Krimm, District 3A  
Delegate Edith Patterson, District 28  
Delegate Curt Anderson, District 43  
Delegate Michelle Guyton, District 42B  
Delegate Nick Mosby, District 40  
Delegate Tony Bridges, District 41  
Delegate Terri Hill, District 12  
Delegate Pat Young, District 44B  
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26  
Delegate Eric Luedtke, District 14  
Delegate Talmadge Branch, District 45